

## Message Text

SECRET

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13

ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DEAE-00 JUSE-00 NSC-07 TRSE-00 IO-14 SAB-01 /053 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:DHERNST:SCT

APPROVED BY S/NM:DHERNST

ARA:APSHANKLE (SUBS)

ARA/PAN (SUBS)

S/NM:NEWARNER

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R 042212Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

S E C R E T STATE 219578

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PN

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: COUNTRY PROBLEM ASSESSMENT PAPERS

1. THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF A PAPER DESCRIBING NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN YOUR COUNTRY AS IT RELATES TO UNITED STATES DRUG SCENE. TREAT THIS AS SECRET-NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION. THIS IS AN INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT WHICH HAS JUST BEEN PREPARED IN CONNECTION WITH FY 1976 PROGRAM REVIEWS. ANY COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS ARISING FROM MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THIS PAPER SHOULD BE SENT TO DEPARTMENT BY CABLE. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE AT MEXICO CITY REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE MAY ALSO WISH DISCUSS THIS ASSESSMENT PAPER WITH WASHINGTON REPS THERE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: SIGNIFICANCE: PANAMA, ESPECIALLY THE COLON FREE ZONE, CONTINUES TO BE A TRANSIT POINT, STORAGE AREA, AND NEGOTIATING SITE FOR TRAFFICKERS, ALTHOUGH STIFFER ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE PAST YEAR OR SO HAVE APPARENTLY SLOWED DOWN THEIR ACTIVITIES. PANAMA NEITHER PRODUCES HARD DRUGS NOR IS IT KNOWN TO PROCESS ANY IN SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS.

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PROBLEMS: CORRUPTION HAS IN THE PAST HINDERED PROGRESS. FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN IMPLICATED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING. THE COUNTRY IS A NATURAL BRIDGE BETWEEN SOUTH AMERICA AND POINTS FURTHER NORTH THAT FACILITATES TRAFFICKING.

ASSESSMENT: SINCE EARLY 1973 PANAMA HAS MADE VIGOROUS, INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO STAMP OUT DRUG TRAFFIC INTERNALLY AND TO COOPERATE IN INTERNATIONAL CONTROL. ARRESTS AND SEIZURES HAVE RISEN SIGNIFICANTLY. THIS SITUATION WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE ONLY SO LONG AS PANAMANIAN LEADERS BELIEVE THAT THE US IS NOT WORKING AGAINST THEIR KEY INTERESTS, SUCH AS NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW CANAL TREATY. END TEXT. KISSINGER

SECRET

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DRUG TRAFFIC, INFORMATION CONTROL  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CollinP0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE219578  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NARCOTICS: COUNTRY PROBLEM ASSESSMENT PAPERS  
**TAGS:** SNAR, PN, US  
**To:** PANAMA  
**Type:** TE  
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